



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

John H. Kraus Post 454
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Non-Profit Organization
Heyworth, IL
US Postage Paid
PERMIT #19

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All the Newsletter information will be posted on the Post Web Page www.vfwpost454.org . Please go to the Post Web Page and Register to receive your Newsletter by e-mail. Some copies of the Newsletter will be available at the Post Lounge.



The Next Paint Nite (Evergreen Farm)
Monday, December 10th at 7 pm
To Register Go To: paintnite.com
Use the Code "PaintBloNo"
Cost is DISCOUNTED to \$27.00!



Feather Party - Open to the Public
Friday December 14th (7 – 11:30 pm)
WIN WIN WIN
Turkey Ham Bacon Chicken
Many Other Assorted Prizes

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Where did the year go?

It's that time again for everyone to start getting their new year's resolutions together. I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving with their family and friends and continuing to enjoy your time with them throughout Christmas and into the New Year.

A big thanks to Dan and Linda Beard and all those who helped make the feather party in November another success. I was unable to attend the event, but was told the number in attendance was close to the 400 mark. It seems they get bigger each year. Let's hope this month's will be just as large.

With the re-opening of the Kitchen and the great entertainment through open mic night and Paint Nites, we have seen an increase in activity at the post. A sincere thanks to all those members, families, friends, partners and sponsors for helping keep our post an active participant in the community over the past year.

Some key dates this month are:

1 st	Civil Air Patrol Birthday
7 th	77 th Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor
8 th	Post VOD Banquet
14 th	2 nd Feather Party
24 th (4 pm)	Tom & Jerry's
25 th	Christmas Day (Post Closed)
Dec 31 st	New Years Eve Party (Flatland Band)

I wish everyone a safe and warm Christmas holiday season. As always, we hope to see you around the Post sharing your time and friendship with all our veterans. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Adam Jacobs
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all our Auxiliary members. Hopefully, you all enjoyed a great Thanksgiving and time with family and friends.

Thanks to all those who helped pack

boxes for our troops and those who provided goodies for our bake sale on November 10th.

December 1st is the 7th District VOD and Patriot's Pen judging.

Mark your calendar Auxiliary members. Our December 5th meeting is at 6:30 P.M. and we will have a very short business meeting. After the business meeting, we will have our annual Christmas Party. We are asking each member to bring \$5.00 to help buy canteen books at the Danville VA for the Veterans to use. Please bring a snack to pass around at the meeting. This get-together is always a fun time and hopefully many members can attend.

Some of our members will be attending the Christmas parties at the Danville VA Saturday the 15th at 2 pm and the Manteno event on Sunday the 16th at 2 pm.

Our last Bake Sale of 2018 is Saturday, December 8th, from 11 am until 2 pm. There are a lot of great bakers in this group to provide those Christmas goodies.

December 8th we will be hosting a Pizza Party for our "VOD" and Patriot's Pen entries. We encourage everyone to attend this event and show these young people how very proud we are of them. If you plan to attend please call or text Billie Guthals at 309-826-4862.

Join us Dec. 14th at 7 P.M. for the "Feather Party". Dan and Linda put in a great deal of work for this fun time. Bring those dollars and win some prizes.

As we close out another year, I want to thank all the members who have provided assistance to our Veterans this year. I wish you all a very "MERRY CHRISTMAS" and all the best to you and your families as we move into 2019.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL.

Murleen Swafford
Auxiliary President

VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

We know that winter is here and riding would be very cold and a bit hazardous, but now is the time to consider joining our group and helping to plan some fun events as soon as the weather gets warmer.

Our meetings are held once a month, with our next one on Sunday, December 2nd at 12:30 pm in the conference room of our Post.

We are always looking for new members to be part of the Riders Group. If you like to ride and have fun or want to help set up a fund raising event please come to our meetings and join up.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Veterans Day – November 11th

It was very cold at the Veterans Day celebration. Our veterans stood their ground and braved the cold to ensure that veterans received the honor they deserved.

After the ceremonies were finished, the members came back to the Post for a delicious hot lunch and some well deserved camaraderie. We had a few members of the Kraus family attend our luncheon, as well as several of the community members who supported our Adopt-A-Grave program in support of the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI.

Pop Up Chicken Shop

Continues to wow everyone with their food. They have a steady flow of customers each day. They have also catered several events that have taken place here at the VFW. We are happy they are settling in and getting to know us better each day.

They will be serving dinner at the December Feather Party, so get here early to enjoy delicious food and get a seat for all the fun.

December Feather Party

Our next party is Friday, December 14th. It starts at 7 pm and goes until the prizes run out. As most of you know, we had a huge crowd and the seats went early. We are expecting the same thing to happen at

this event. So get here early.

We need people to help with the setup that takes place Thursday night December 13th at 5 pm. Remember, it takes 7 - 8 people for ticket sellers. We need several people to help as runners for prizes (about 10). If we get enough people to help as runners, each person would only be needed for a couple of hours instead of all night long. At the end of the night, we need cleanup folks to help move tables and chairs (about 4).

The Feather Party helps raise money used to support veterans programs and local community charities. So please plan to attend and bring your friends to one or both of these events.

Post Membership

Annual members consider accepting the Post's offer to help you become a "Life Member". The Post will pay \$100 towards a life membership. Contact the Post at 309-827-9733 and ask for Jim (our Quartermaster). He can help you become a Life Member. There have been a couple of members and a new member that has taken advantage of our generosity. So, if you are an annual member please consider converting to a Life Member.

Auxiliary Annual Dues

Please keep in mind your 2018 - 2019 dues are to be paid by December 15. Send your \$25.00 to Diane Hawk, Treasurer - 1006 E Lincoln St - Bloomington 61701.

If your dues are not received by the deadline, you will no longer be eligible for a cancer grant. In order to receive a grant you must be a member at least a year, and in the case of a lapse of continuous membership, you would have to reapply and wait a year in order to be eligible again.

If you are having financial or health problems, let us know. We have ways to assist you. Call Diane at 309-828-3534.

Hospital Visits

The Auxiliary is going to Danville for the District Christmas Party on December 15th and to Manteno on December 16th. These are always fun trips and a good time will be had by all who travel along.

This will be our last trip to Danville for the winter. Help is needed to transport the wheelchair residents from their wards to the activities centers. This is a good way to get to know some of the veterans living in these facilities.

It brings joy to them, but is so rewarding to the volunteers. Why not come along and wish a veteran a Merry Christmas. If you want to join us, please call Mary Sheehan, Auxiliary Hospital Chairman, at 309-585-0489.

Packing Boxes

The Auxiliary will pack boxes on January 12th, 2019, at 9 am. We are in need of food items and hygiene products. At this time we are completely out of everything.

If you have a name and address of someone overseas in a combat zone, please drop it off at the Post or the Auxiliary office so we can send them packages to show our thanks for their service.

We thank you for your continued support of this great program.

Pot Belly's Veterans Fund Raising

Please stop by Pot Belly's at 609 South Main Street in Normal and have dinner. December 12th is the last date of 2018. Don't miss the last chance of 2018 to support Pot Belly's and Your Post.

Entertainment Events

December 10th is our next Paint Nite. It is titled "Evergreen Farm". The slots are selling out quick for this event. So act now and get your seat purchased for this event. It is the last Paint Nite of 2018 and you don't want to miss it. We will have more scheduled in 2019.

Don't forget about December 31st - New Year's Eve. The Flatland Band is playing at our VFW. It will be a great time, so don't miss out on all the fun and festivities. Check our facebook page, website or local paper for more details.

District Meetings

Here are the dates for the District 7 meetings taking place throughout the rest of the fiscal year.

Please plan to attend these meetings and find out what is happening at the District and State levels as well as other posts within our District.

Feb 17 th	Pontiac (Post 886)
May 19 th	Champaign (Post 5520)

The joint Post and Auxiliary meeting begins at 11:00 am. Lunch is served at noon. The individual veteran and auxiliary meetings begin at 1:00 pm.

Contact Information

If you move, do the snowbird thing or forward your mail, **PLEASE** ensure that you keep the Post or the Auxiliary informed of those changes.

If any of your VFW or Auxiliary mail gets returned to National or they receive an undeliverable from the US Post Office, National will automatically list your mailing address as undeliverable.

This creates problems for those at the Post trying to maintain our membership rosters. When someone's address gets marked as undeliverable, we have to make several attempts to reach you and hopefully get the address corrected so you can receive your VFW information or membership notices, as well as our monthly newsletter (if you are receiving the paper copy).

So please help us in keeping our members records up to date. We greatly appreciate your support and understanding.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS
NONE TO REPORT THIS MONTH



DECEMBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 District VOD Judging 9 am Wedding Rec 4 pm No Darts
2 VFW Rider's 12:30 pm Baby Shower 2 pm	3 House Mtg 5:30 pm	4 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	5 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	6 Pool 7 pm	7 VFW Darts 7 pm	8 VOD Banquet 5 pm Bake Sale 11 am VFW Darts 7
9	10 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	11 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	12 Pool 7 pm	13 Feather Party Setup 5 pm Pool 7 pm	14 Feather Party 7 pm NO DARTS	15 Celebration of Life 5 pm VFW Darts 7 pm
16	17	18 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	19 Pool 7 pm	20 Pool 7 pm	21 VFW Darts 7 pm	22 VFW Darts 7 pm
23	24 Tom & Jerry's 4:30 pm	25 Christmas Day Post Closed	26 Pool 7 pm	27 Pool 7 pm	28 VFW Darts 7 pm	29 Retirement Party 5 pm VFW Darts 7 pm
30	31 New Years Eve Flatland Band 8:30 pm	1 New Years Day Post Open Pool 7 pm	2 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	3 Pool 7 pm	4 VFW Darts 7 pm	5 VFW Darts 7 pm
6 VFW Rider's Meeting 12:30 pm	7 House Mtg 5:30 pm	8 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	9 Pool 7 pm	10 Pool 7 pm	11 VFW Darts 7 pm	12 VFW Darts 7 pm
13	14	15 MCL Mtg 7 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	16 Pool 7 pm	17	18 VFW Darts 7 pm	19 VFW Darts 7 pm
20	21 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	22 Pool 7 pm	23 Pool 7 pm	24	25 VFW Darts 7 pm	26 VFW Darts 7 pm

Band Information:

Dec 31st

Flatland Band (Music from 8:30 pm to 12:30 am)